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ABSTRACT

Noting that children spend an enormous amount of time in child care, this book illustrates the strengths of family child care and how to capitalize on these strengths by careful space design. Five chapters give advice on how to create a well-organized family day care environment. Chapter 1 discusses how to put first the needs of the provider, the provider's family, the children in child care, and other people when arranging and deciding to use a space. It includes tips on how to make the space accommodate the people who will use it. Chapter 2 looks at all the different people in the family child care business that must be accommodated, such as the children cared for, their families, and others connected to the business. Chapter 3 considers the provider's family, including guests and extended family members. Chapter 4 examines the activities these people engage in and the kinds of space required for their activities. Chapter 5 considers the child care space as a whole, inside and out, and how to find usable space for all possible activities. It includes suggestions for how to implement a space plan, using not only the rooms, but also the furnishings in the rooms. Two appendices include forms to use when planning activity areas and a list of companies that specialize in child care equipment. (TJQ)

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